

LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of Skulduggery Pleasant by Derek Landy

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading4kids members.

Harvey Jones, age 12

This is a funny book. It was very enjoyable, fast paced and exciting.

Gordon was an author. He died suddenly and Stephanie is left his house and all his money. At Gordon's funeral, she notices a man in an overcoat, hat and dark glasses. His name is Skulduggery Pleasant and is a living skeleton. Stephanie discovers a world of magic.

When Stephanie stays over at Gordon's and the house is broken into, she is saved by Skulduggery. The man was looking for the key. She finds out the key will lead to the Sceptre of the Ancients.

Skulduggery is sure Serpine is after it. They both go to the guard of the book of names. The book lists the names of every person on earth. It cannot be stolen.

Serpine is the evil sorcerer who killed Skulduggery and his family. He has a red hand, that when used causes death to the one it's used on. Serpine and the Elders have had a truce for hundreds of years but Skulduggery knows he is up to no good. He knows it was Serpine's man who was looking for the key in Gordon's house and he is fairly sure he killed Gordon. It's up to Stephanie and Skulduggery to do their best to stop Serpine.

This is a funny book. It was very enjoyable, fast paced and exciting.



Joseph Harris-Hart, age 11

This book is about Skulduggery Pleasant who is a skeleton and Stephanie a twelve year old girl, who are the main characters in the story.

She meets Skulduggery Pleasant disguised in a coat, hat, scarf and gloves at the reading of her uncles will. Upon the death of her uncle she inherits his big old house.

Together they are trying to find the sceptre, an orb with magical powers, before Serpine the villain of the story gets it. Serpine has the power to heal himself and the power to kill people by pointing at them with his right hand.

They search for the sceptre in underground caves beneath the old house that now belongs to Stephanie. Skulduggery Pleasant is a magician and detective who is trying to prevent Serpine taking over the world by using the sceptre to increase his powers.

The story is about their quest to find the sceptre before the evil Serpine does.

The author describes the characters very well and also their actions. I felt as though a hand came out of the book to grab me, as I was drawn into the story. I was gripped by the story and didn't know what would happen next.

I would recommend this book to children that enjoy action, excitement and magic. Age 11+ and would rate this book 9/10. This is the first book of the series and I am looking forward to reading some more of them.

Alina Wraith, age 9

'Skulduggery Pleasant' is a really good book. I am so glad I have discovered it as there are plenty more in the series to read and I'm off to buy them as soon as I can.

It is about a girl who inherits her uncle's house but when she meets Skulduggery Pleasant who is a living skeleton, everything changes. The story is about magic and an evil wizard who wants to destroy the planet and remodel it. I've never come across a character like Skulduggery Pleasant before. He's really original. The book is funny and exciting and scary in places.

Tom Greenan, age 8

It was a very good book that I didn't want to put down. 10/10

Skulduggery Pleasant is a skeleton who is dead but still alive and he can walk, talk and breathe. He is also a detective, a warrior and a magician. He is a really cool character.

The book has a good plot that is easy to follow. There were really good descriptions so I knew what the characters looked like but I didn't know what colour Tanith's hair was so I imagined it was blue. I liked Serpine because he had a red hand that killed people when he pointed it at them. There were people who had special powers like Tanith who can walk upside down and Skulduggery, who can throw fire from his hand. This made it more exciting than if they had been ordinary people.

It is scary in places and some people die, so younger children might not want to read it.

Raj Bunet, age 12

This book is filled with action every page you turn. At one point I was unable to put this book down. I can not wait until the next books in the 'Skulduggery Pleasant' series are released.

'Skulduggery Pleasant' is a book that starts off by announcing the death of an author, Gordon Edgely. Skulduggery Pleasant is the name of one of the main characters who has a series of different magical abilities which he uses to defend himself and others who have the same belief as him. Another main character is Stephanie who is alongside Skulduggery Pleasant through their magical journey. The storyline has action and suspense but as the story progresses who can you trust in the city of Dublin.

Overall I would give this book a 9/10 as it is fast moving and the reader won't be able to put the book down as the author has a detailed storyline through the book to keep you interested.

Callum, age 10

This book is about murder, mystery, magic and trickery. This is a must read book. It is well written and punctuated.

This book is about murder, mystery, magic and trickery. This is a must read book, one of those types of books that always finishes each chapter on a cliff-hanger. I never wanted to put this fabulous book down. It is well written and punctuated, with descriptive language, yet it is still so easy to understand. Over all this book is straight to the point, I can assure you this will not drag on.

Rating: 10/10

Alice East, age 9

This is the first book in a series of seven about a skeleton magician and detective. *The other main character is a girl called Stephanie who finds that she has magic powers when she meets Skullduggery.*

Skullduggery and Stephanie use their magical powers against an evil man who is trying to bring back evil Gods.

It is a story with lots of action and adventure in it which makes you keep reading the next chapter.

When I finished the book I was keen to read the next one.

If you enjoyed reading the 'Sisters Grimm' set of books you might like to try this series.

I think it will appeal to both girls and boys.

Tom Corbett, age 10

You don't know what happens next. So that's good. I would recommend it to everybody. It was great.

It was good because you don't know what was happening next. It was also quite scary. I would recommend it to everybody who likes action. I would choose to read it.

Thomas Heaney age 15

St. Colm's High School, Draperstown Northern Ireland

I really enjoyed this book by Derek Landy, he is a brilliant author and this story was a great read. *However, compared to the other Skulduggery books this one had a more physical appeal rather a magical one. Despite this there was still a lot of magic involved. There were quite a few*

violent scenes so I would recommend this to pupils age 13+

Toby Slocombe, age 10

This book is a great, descriptive book . It, only by using description, strikes fear into you at certain moments. Derek Landy created fabulous character and plot.

The illustrations on the front cover brings the book to life even more. The imagination of Skulduggery Pleasant and him being a living skeleton wizard makes you want to read on to find out his other powers. I would definitely recommend you read this book.

Adi Mehta, age 8

Stephanie lives her lonely life in a lonely town on a lonely road in a lonely house. Her only interesting bit of life was playing with Uncle Gordon. Now Uncle Gordon is dead? What will she do? However things sort its self out when a dim- witted skull appears [maybe Stephanie is more dim- witted] this mystical book has certainly caught my eye! I recommend this exciting book to children over 8 years of age as it does include scary scenes. Younger children would however prefer to have an adult beside them.

I love this stunning book. The surprises are waiting for you!